

**From:** Benjamin Horst  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/18/02 3:45pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Poughkeepsie, NY  
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As a professional consultant working in the computing industry, I feel it is not only an opportunity, but also a responsibility, for me to submit the following comments regarding the proposed settlement.

It is clear in my years of experience that Microsoft's monopoly has had adverse effects on the industry and has harmed its competitors, customers and even its own business partners. The current settlement's purpose, is, of course, to restrain Microsoft's anticompetitive conduct and remedy the effects of its past unlawful conduct. However, I do not feel it achieves these two goals.

The current settlement would not punish Microsoft, but could actually advance its interests and provide the company with a 'governmental green-light' to continue its abusive practices. Please insist that the settlement is not acceptable unless it also includes the following: the complete un-bundling of Microsoft's products from its base operating system, with those products distributed separately or as extra-cost options; and the complete opening of the specifications for all Microsoft document file formats, APIs, and networking protocols for now and forever.

With Microsoft's market position, it is capable of and seems to be working toward seizure of de facto control of the internet. There is no competitor nor group of competitors that could prevent it from taking this action, just as there was no free market action that could have prevented its seizure of the browser market from Netscape.

The only recourse is for a strong government action that would both punish the company for its past law-breaking and make it impossible to commit further illegal acts. Please reject the proposed settlement and accept none that do not fully address all facets of Microsoft's monopoly abuses.

Thank you,  
Benjamin Horst,  
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